

Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Competitive Grant Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Purpose

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) anticipates that with the 2019-2021 biennial budget, the General Assembly of North Carolina will appropriate six million dollars (\$6,000,000) from the At-Risk Student Services Alternative School Allotment for the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports (ELISS) Competitive Grant Program for the 2019-2020 period. The purpose of the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Competitive Grant Program (ELISS) is to fund high-quality, independently validated extended learning and integrated student support service programs for at-risk students that raise standards for student academic outcomes by focusing on the following:

- Use of an evidence-based model with a proven track record of success.
- Inclusion of rigorous, quantitative performance measures to confirm effectiveness of the program.
- Deployment of multiple tiered supports in schools to address student barriers to achievement, such as strategies to improve chronic absenteeism, antisocial behaviors, academic growth, and enhancement of parent and family engagement.
- Alignment with State performance measures, student academic goals, and the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.
- Prioritization in programs to integrate clear academic content, in particular, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning opportunities or reading development and proficiency instruction.
- Minimization of student class size when providing instruction or instructional supports and interventions.
- Expansion of student access to high-quality learning activities and academic support that strengthen student engagement and leverage community-based resources, which may include organizations that provide mentoring services and private-sector employer involvement.
- Utilization of digital content to expand learning time, when appropriate.

Eligible Organizations

Nonprofit corporations and nonprofit corporations working in collaboration with local education agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply for the ELISS grant to implement new or existing eligible programs for at-risk students. This does restrict stand-alone applications from LEAs, charter schools, lab schools, or other governmental or educational agencies.

Good Standing

Organizations applying for funding must be considered in “Good Standing” to be eligible for ELISS funding for the 2019-2020 school year (and for subsequent continuation of funding for the 2020-2021 school year if available). “Good Standing” for ELISS grantees refers to the applicant organization being/having been in compliance as relates to any grant or subgrant received through federal or state funds during the past three years. Applicants must be/have been in compliance with:

- All expenditure reporting for grantee/sub-grantee was submitted in accordance with the reporting deadline and found by the NCDPI to be complete within three (3) months of the funding

Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Competitive Grant Program

close-out period;

- All Program Monitoring and/or Fiscal Monitoring findings (if any) or any outstanding questioned costs for grantee/sub-grantee were found by the NCDPI to be resolved to the satisfaction of the NCDPI within three (3) months of the grantee close-out period; and
- All data collection and evaluation reporting for grantee/sub-grantee were submitted in accordance with NCDPI requirements.

An applicant organization may be deemed “Not in Good Standing” if they are out of compliance with any federal or state program or fiscal guidance for which they have received funds in the past three years. If the applicant organization is deemed “Not in Good Standing” as of the time applications are screened for eligibility (October 3, 2019), they will not be eligible for funding during the current grant cycle and will not be included for Level I review. Additionally, if the applicant organization is deemed “Not in Good Standing” at any point during the Level II or Level III reviews, the application will be identified as “Not Recommended” for funding to the SBE.

Funding Priorities

Programs must focus on serving students in one or more of the following at-risk categories: 1) at-risk students not performing at grade level as demonstrated by statewide assessments, and/or 2) students at-risk of dropout, and/or 3) students at-risk of school displacement due to suspension or expulsion as a result of anti-social behaviors.

Priority consideration shall be given to applications demonstrating models that focus services and programs in schools that are identified as State low-performing¹ (that is, at a minimum, 50% of schools served must be low-performing). [Refer to the State low-performing schools 2017-2018 list.](#)

The NCDPI is also directed to give priority to an applicant that is a nonprofit corporation working in partnership with a LEA resulting in a match utilizing federal funds under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, or Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and other federal funds to supplement the ELISS program.

NOTE: A copy of a Partnership Agreement with the LEAs that includes the amount of the match and requisite signatures (district and school) must be uploaded in “Optional Documents” of CCIP .

Funding Availability

Grant participants are eligible to receive grants for up to two years in an amount of up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) each year. No organization will receive an award totaling more than \$500,000 annually.

Budget and Match Requirements

The proposed budget must clearly align with program activities, must be reasonable and necessary, and must provide a breakdown of costs by category.

¹ § G.S. 115C-105.37 Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15.

Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Competitive Grant Program

The ELISS Budget Worksheet reflecting requested funds by category, matching funds by source and category, and a cost per student calculation for the program must be completed and uploaded to CCIP under “Required Documents”.

Applicants must provide certification to the NCDPI that the grants received under the program shall be matched on the basis of three dollars (\$3.00) in grant funds for every one dollar (\$1.00) in nongrant funds. Matching funds must not include other State funds. Matching funds may include in-kind contributions for up to fifty percent (50%) of the required match. Federal funds used to supplement the ELISS program may also be counted toward the State match requirements.

An applicant awarded ELISS funds for the 2019-2020 funding period that fails to demonstrate compliance with the funding match (one dollar of nongrant funds for every three dollars of grant funds) as required, may be subject to funds being withheld for the 2020-2021 renewal year.

Performance Measures and Other Reporting

Grant recipients shall report to the NCDPI for the year in which grant funds were expended on the progress of the program, including alignment with State academic standards, data collection for reporting student progress, the source and amount of matching funds, and other measures, before receiving funding for the next fiscal year. Grant recipients shall also submit a final report on key performance data, including State test results, attendance rates, graduation rates, and promotion rates, and on the financial sustainability of the program. Thus, grantees should budget for and describe either internal or external evaluator expertise in the data collection, analysis, and reporting as needed at the end of the grant period.

In addition, the NCDPI will identify other reporting requirements as needed to determine eligibility for continuation of funding for the 2020-2021 school year (if available). Accordingly, organizations submitting applications should have the capacity to provide fiscal, programmatic, and student performance measure reporting as requested by the NCDPI.

Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Competitive Grant Program

2019-20 PROPOSED TENTATIVE TIMELINE*

August 7, 2019

Date	Event
August 13, 2019	<u>Request for Proposals Announcement</u> – Sent via mailing lists.
August 29, 2019	<u>Request for Proposal Guidance and Planning Worksheets</u> – Editable document available on ELISS website and mailing lists.
September 5, 2019	<u>Technical Assistance Webinars</u> – Webinars conducted for all potential applicants. Register.
September 6, 2019	<u>Intent to Apply</u> – Intent to Apply forms completed and submitted to NCDPI. Download form.
September 9-25, 2019	<u>CCIP Training</u> - Training offered ONLY for organizations that have not been trained previously. Register.
October 1, 2019	<u>Applications Due</u> – Application submitted through CCIP and time stamped by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.
October 2, 2019	<u>Login and Screening</u> – Applications list downloaded from CCIP.
October 4, 2019 – November 6, 2019	<u>Application Reviews</u> – Three-level review process.
November 7, 2019	<u>State Board of Education Meeting</u> – Recommendations for SBE review and approval as Action on First Reading.
November 8, 2019	<u>Notifications to Approved/Not Approved Applicants</u> – Applicants notified of approval or non-approval and provided with comments for improvement.

*NOTE: The proposed timeline is tentative and subject to change based on the number of applications received and any actions taken by the SBE.